

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A disposable diaper comprising: a diaper main body including a top sheet, a back sheet and an absorbent body enclosed in said sheets; a pair of side flaps respectively extending outwardly from an end portion in a lateral direction of said diaper main body; and a fixing tape disposed in proximity of a farthest lateral edge of the respective side flaps extending outwardly,
wherein said fixing tape is provided with a hook member;
said fixing tape and said side flap are to be engaged through said hook member; and
an engaging region on said side flap where said fixing tape is to be engaged includes portions having a different engaging force with said hook member.
2. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 1,
wherein said engaging region comprises an engaging portion with which said hook member is to be engaged and a non-engaging portion with which said hook member can barely be engaged or cannot be engaged at all.
3. (Currently amended) The disposal diaper according to ~~either claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1,
wherein said fixing tape comprises a fixing tape substrate and said hook member provided on a surface of said fixing tape substrate; and said 20 fixing tape substrate is provided with a thumb portion on an end portion thereof and an attaching portion on the other end portion thereof.
4. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~ claim 1,
wherein said engaging region has an engaging forte with said hook member in a range of 0.3 N/25mm to 2.2 N/25mm.
5. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 2,
wherein said non-engaging portion has an engaging force with said hook member not greater than 2.2 N/25mm.

6. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 5,
wherein said non-engaging portion is comprised of a nonwoven fabric
having a low engaging force with said hook member.

7. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 2,
wherein an area of said engaging portion is in a range of 5% to 50% of
the entirety of said hook member.

8. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~
claim 1,

wherein said hook member of said fixing tape is a male .engaging piece
of a hook-and-loop fastener.

9. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~
claim 1,

wherein said fixing tape is attached to an inner surface of said side flap and can be
folded back at a lateral edge thereof in such a manner that its face with said hook member faces
inside, so as to be temporarily fixed to said side flap surface in a manner where said hook
member achieves engagement in said engaging region when said fixing tape is folded back.

10. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~
claim 1,

wherein said fixing tape is attached to said side flap in such a manner
that said hook member opposes said side flap surface, so that said fixing tape is temporarily
fixed to said side flap surface in a manner where said hook
member achieves engagement in said engaging region.

11. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 8~~
claim 1,

wherein said fixing tape is attached to an outer surface of said side flap and can be folded back at a lateral edge thereof in such a manner that its face with said hook member faces inside, so as to be temporarily fixed to said side flap surface in a manner where said hook member achieves engagement in said engaging region after said fixing tape is folded back.

12. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~
claim 9,

wherein said non-engaging portion of said engaging region is formed on at least one of either said fixing tape and said side flap surface or the both thereof.

13. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~
claim 9,

wherein said engaging portion in said engaging region is formed on said side flap surface.

14. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~
claim 9,

wherein said fixing tape substrate is comprised of a nonwoven fabric having a low engaging force with said hook member.

15. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 9, wherein said fixing tape is provided with an opening in said attaching portion.

16. (Currently amended) The disposable diaper according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~
claim 1,

wherein said side flap comprises an elastic sheet and a nonwoven fabric combined thereto at least on the wearer's body side.

17. (Original) A disposable diaper comprising a fixing tape provided with a hook member,

wherein an engaging region with which said hook member of said fixing tape is to be engaged includes therein a non-engaging portion where said hook member is substantially unable to be engaged, and said non-engaging portion comprises a temporary fixing portion of said fixing tape.